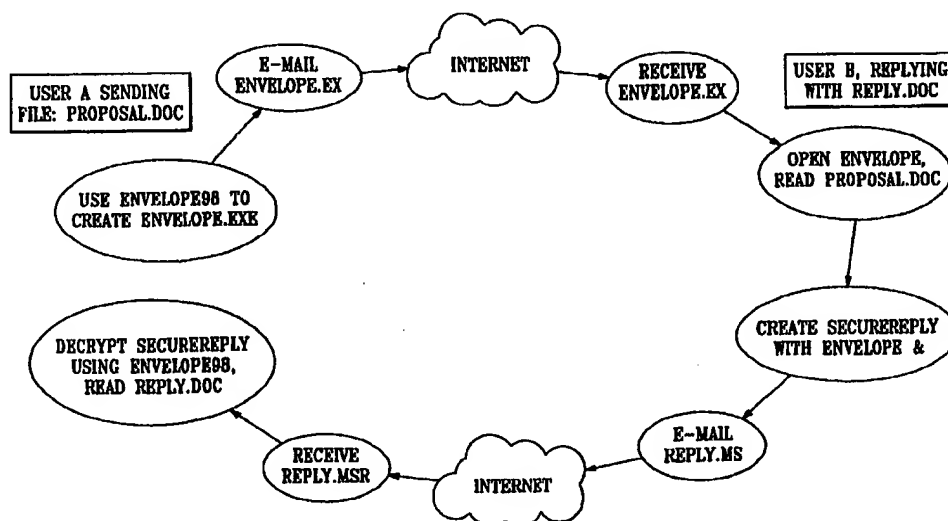




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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SECURE DATA TRANSMISSION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

An apparatus and method creates a secure document with installed software at a sending location. The secure document includes an executable program which, when received and opened, runs a program that can decrypt the secure document. A pass word or phrase may be included to prevent unauthorized access to the secure document. A secure reply option may be provided which, if selected, permits the received program to encrypt a reply and to transmit the encrypted reply to the sending location. The installed software can then open the reply. In alternative embodiments, the executable program contacts a predetermined global computer network site which provides a program to decrypt the secure message. Further, the executable program and/or the program downloaded from the site enables communication with a second global computer network site which can be instructed to take a particular selected action. A confirmation can be returned to the sending location, either from the receiving location or from the second global computer network site.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04L29/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>EP 0 679 978 A (IBM) 2 November 1995 (1995-11-02)</p> <p>abstract page 2, column 1, line 31 - line 37 page 3, column 4, line 34 -page 4, column 5, line 23 page 14, column 25, line 8 -column 26, line 34 page 19, column 36, line 39 -page 20, column 37, line 14; claims 1-3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-/-</p>	<p>1-3, 9-11, 17-19, 25-27</p>

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 August 2000

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 5 805 702 A (FOX CHRISTOPHER W ET AL) 8 September 1998 (1998-09-08) abstract column 1, line 29 - line 49 column 3, line 29 - line 46 column 4, line 37 -column 6, line 23</p>	1-39

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